

THEIR FIRST PATIENTS

STORIES TOLD BY SOME LOCAL PHYSICIANS.

A Cyrano de Bergerac Nose — A Too

Bibulous Policeman—A Young Doctor's Success.

Local physicians of prominence told some very amusing stories of how they obtained their first patient.

"Every physician in practice today testifies a recollection of his first real case, as it is a well-known fact that doctors, like all other public men, have great difficulty in securing an opportunity to demonstrate their ability," said a prominent surgeon whose name is a household word in Washington. "My inclination," continued this physician, "was always toward surgical work, and my first operation was humorous in the extreme. In my earlier professional life I had few opportunities to gratify my desire—I started out as an assistant to a surgeon of national reputation.

An Unfortunate Result.

"My duty as an assistant was simply to dress cases, and I longed for an opportunity of doing some actual surgical work. I most certainly was not trusted by the surgeon whom I was assisting, nor could I secure patients who would trust me. In the special emergency of the case, however, my preference was for that known as plastic.

Going through the wards one day, I was highly pleased and interested in seeing a large nose on the head of a patient. The patient's deformity that could happen to mankind—a loss of the nose. I examined the condition very carefully, thought over the matter, and I had read in the books and informed the patient that I could easily make him a new nose of any form desired. I asked him what shape he preferred—Roman, African or Greek. He replied that it did not make any difference, so that the hole in his face was covered. Next morning I met my surgeon in the ward, and calling his attention to the negro, requested that he allow me to make the operation. He immediately informed me that I was not yet competent to do such work, and would not let me to let the patient alone. I thought of nothing else but that nose, and the desire to make the operation increased as the days went by. A few days later, my surgeon having left the city, I saw my opportunity, and calling in consultation three or four medical students, chums of mine, having received the consent of the patient, we took him to the operating room, chloroformed him, when I made the operation known as the Indian method. Selecting a leaf as a pattern, which was laid over the forehead, just above the root of the nose, with pencil mark outlining the pattern upon the skin over the forehead. The incision was made in the hair, and the nose formed, pulled down and placed over the chasm producing the deformity. Cotton was inserted under the flap to elevate the new nose and keep it in position.

"I felt very proud and highly elated over the result, and anxiously awaited the return of my surgeon, to prove to him that I had not disappointed him. My patient, however, he was not as greatly pleased as I expected him to be, and gave me a scolding word for the fish symbol on the forehead, and to call the fish symbol was equivalent to calling him a Christian.

In one of the old Christian frescoes, indicating a baptism, a man is represented as a fish. This was some time ago, says the doctor, and I was told that it was customary in Asia Minor in the second century for the Christian to use this symbolic language. It was hardly safe, then, for them to speak openly of their faith in Christ. They were accustomed to wear rings with the fish sign as a signet, much as we wear symbolic badges today. One day two men met, neither of whom were Christians, and one of them said, "I am a fish." The other, saying a word, traced with his stick the figure of a fish in the sand. The other quickly burst out in assertion of his Christian faith, for the fish symbol was equivalent to calling him a Christian.

ONE DOG TO EACH LEPER.

Board of Health Sets a Limit on the Island of Molokai.

From the Honolulu Commercial Advertiser.

There are about 1,000 persons permanently resident at the leper settlement on the island of Molokai, and there is an average of about five live and lively dogs to each person.

And those statements are explanatory of a number of things. It would be supposed, in the first place, that there was some mysterious affinity between dogs and leprosy, but this is not the fact. The native, however, has a great fondness for dogs—and dogs—and because of that fondness the number of canine pets at the settlement has increased to such an extent that they have not only become a great nuisance to those persons on Molokai who are able to restrain their affection for dogs within reasonable limits, but have likewise become a menace to the lepers themselves, in that their dogs are literally eating them out of house and home.

There is, in fact, a constantly increasing insufficiency, actually felt, in the ration issued, while the dogs grow more numerous. The dogs, in fact, are a very voracious day by day. The average native will go hungry himself to feed his dog. More, he will even let his friend go hungry to feed his dog. This is what he would be called an animal. The dogs work no particular harm where the native is healthy enough to follow his bent and eat the food of the dogs, but the danger to his pet permanently, but the danger to the settlement are not inclined to do so—that is, not enough inclined to do so to keep down the surplus dogs, and so the board of health has been compelled to take a hand in the matter. And this has become a condition requiring action, the more important because the dogs, not content with eating up the palat of their owners, have lately taken to running in the hills and pulling down the calves of the herds and eating them as well, thus cutting into the meat ration, as also, as the ration of palat.

It was in view of this condition that a number of lepers to the board of health praying to the board of health of dogs in the settlement limited, which petition resulted in the passage by the board of health of a new regulation limiting the number of dogs to one for each leper. The board was not, however, inclined to be exigent in the matter. It gave the dog owners until the 1st of July to get rid of the surplus. That should be ample time to prepare and enjoy a lot of luau. And 5,000 dogs would contribute most successfully to the luau of that kind, whether as conscious or unconscious participants in the festivities.

"For," as a member of the board of health said, when asked about the matter yesterday, "the dogs have been eating them out of house and home. Now let them eat the dogs, and that will preserve the balance."

The "Nervous Bite."

From the New York World.

French physicians have made a study of the habit of biting one's fingers, nails or gnawing pencils and penholders, say that these are really nervous disorders hereditary in some cases and often contagious by example. They have even figured out what maladies come from the different forms of the biting habit. Onychophagia—that is the stage name of nail biting—causes intestinal disorders. Penholder gnawers seem especially liable to appendicitis. Dr. Peres states that the investigation shows that 25 per cent of French school children are nail biters. Gnawing hair is mostly confined to the lower animals, but many human beings, however, have constipated largely of hair. A hairy ball weighing about a pound having been taken from the stomach of a young girl of eleven. Thread eating, to which little attention has been given, has been noticed in a girl of eighteen to the extent of eating a half of a woolen cloth in four or five days.

A Guaranteed Cure for Piles.

Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles. Your doctor will refund your money if PAZO Ointment fails to cure you. 50 cents.

Box 208.

LITERATURE OF EATING

COLLECTION OF MENUS IN NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Bill of Fare of Aguinaldo's Birthday

Dinner—Mementos of Famous Meals.

From the New York Tribune.

Miss Frank E. Butolph, collector of menus at the New York Public Library, has been for ever before since she started her collection, two and a half years ago. She recently received from Thomas B. Mills of West Superior, Wis., the bill of fare for the dinner Aguinaldo was giving his followers in celebration of his thirty-fourth birthday, March 23, 1901, when he was surprised and captured by Gen. Funston and his squad.

The card, which was written on ordinary ruled letter paper, and which was fastened for convenience on the lid of a cigar box, and doubtless was passed from hand to hand among the diners. It was observed by Capt. Harry Newton, now of the 34th Infantry, quartered at Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, but then of Gen. Funston's command, and was by him forwarded away as a souvenir of the downfall of the Filipino leader. He sent it by mail to Mr. Mills, and he, having read of the Butolph collection of menus at the New York Public Library, Miss Butolph to inquire if she would like to have it. She lost no time in saying she would, and it came to her by registered mail about two weeks ago.

A Filipino Menu.

The menu is neatly written in ink and has an ornamental border drawn with a red pencil. The stock of neatness of the chef, however, was evidently exhausted before his task was completed, as he failed to fill in the red in the lower marginal panel and pasted the paper on the box lid very carelessly, leaving unsightly wrinkles in several places. Two of the eight items on the bill were evidently exhausted before Gen. Funston's arrival, as a pencil had been drawn through the lines referring to them. Another peculiarity of the bill is that the chef signed his name to it with his full title. When Miss Butolph attempted to transcribe the bill the last line worried her greatly. It was so written that the words were not clearly separated, and to use her own picturesque language, she was almost in despair, when "It suddenly occurred to me that the cook had added himself to the menu, but had not said whether in a broil, a roast or a stew. I have since concluded it must have been the latter, as Gen. Funston cooked his own meat, and washed only a few moments after the dinner began." P. Buensucio, maestro cocinero, was the way he ended the last state dinner of the Aguinaldo administration. This was the bill:

MENU A LA FRANCESA.

1. Arroz a la Filipina Cruz Roja.
2. Budin en forma de torre tricolor.
3. Chichon de carne en salsa rubia.
4. Pescado a la mayonesa.
5. Pisto de calabaza con almendruillas.
6. Gran pastel de pollos rellenos con masa nacional a la Palanan.
7. Gallina trufada y jamon dulce.
8. Carne asada a la Rosa con ensalada de espinacas a la Catalana.

Dulce.

Varia clases de sueltos.

History says General Funston and his command had undergone great privations and were hungry when they arrived at Aguinaldo. What they did to the remainder of the dinner is not stated.

Beginning of the Fad.

Miss Butolph began collecting menus on January 1, 1900. Her first effort was due to seeing for the first time on the bill of fare of a restaurant in Union Square the date 1900. She took away the bill with her and spoke to her superiors at the Astor Library about it. They proposed to buy it, and Miss Butolph at once decided to begin collecting bills of fare. She thought she might secure 500 good ones in a few months, and she did. Now she has over 1,000. If you ever see me on the street, be kind enough to turn and walk in the opposite direction." And really, when the collector of menus would immediately turn in the opposite direction, and have no desire, even until the present day, to witness my first case, my first plastic operation.

A Bibulous Officer.

"My first case," said another well-known physician, "was an amputation, and that I was summoned was due entirely to my proximity to the place of the accident. It was late, about 3 o'clock, and there was no other physician near, and it is to those favoring circumstances I owe my first case.

"A policeman, at present well known in this city, came for me, and he had brought to the scene. The patient had caught his hand in a fly-wheel, and his arm was crushed to the elbow. An immediate amputation was necessary. But my patient, however, and his occupation should have destroyed any squeamish weakness he might possess. But it was marvelous the number of times he uttered the words, 'I am a fish,' and at the end of the operation the bottle was empty and the cop was gloriously satisfied.

"However, I am glad to say that my patient recovered and my operation was successful. The policeman—"

"He is still here. Only the other day I was summoned to attend him, and we both laughed over the memory of my first case."

A Successful Case.

"I well remember my first case," said another, "for it came to me only after long and anxious waiting. At the beginning of my career I settled near the hospital. I was an extern, to practice there during intervals in my professional duties. But the presence of several old physicians in the neighborhood, together with my experience, and my reputation for skill, and my compulsion to spend most of my time at the hospital, this work was purely gratifying to me. I was not called to the hospital until one day a small boy in the neighborhood undertook to fly a kite, and to facilitate the task he climbed upon the roof of the shed kitchen. In his haste, however, he fell, sustaining a compound fracture of the thigh and a fracture of the arm. The case was sent to me, and I was summoned as a last resort.

"Upon my arrival I found the mother and father and the injured boy away and six women in attendance, who watched with great anxiety every movement of the 'boy doctor.' When I administered the chloroform they, with one voice, cried out, 'Don't kill him!' At last, in desperation, I turned all but one of them out of the room and left the case to the father. The father, however, was not to be deterred. He came and see me upon his return and to send his family physician, to whom I would explain the case, and the father said, 'But at that time the plaster of Paris method had just been introduced, and the case was so placed at the nice appearance of the limb that he asked me to take the case. This I gladly did. There was a successful recovery, no shortening of the limb or any other result. The father, however, was not to be deterred. 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